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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NewView Oklahoma Unveils New Walking Path and Accessible Garden to Promote Holistic Wellness

Oklahoma City, May 22, 2023—NewView Oklahoma, a leading organization dedicated to supporting individuals with vision loss, celebrated a significant milestone today with the ribbon cutting ceremony for their new walking path and accessible garden. This transformative project was made possible through a generous \$495,000 grant awarded by the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust of Oklahoma (TSET) in November 2022.

The TSET grant will fund a holistic wellness initiative aimed at improving health outcomes for NewView's clients and employees. The initiative encompasses various elements, including the creation of an accessible outdoor wellness space, tailored physical activity programs for blind youth and adults, and dedicated wellness programs for blind employees.

Situated at NewView's manufacturing plant in downtown Oklahoma City, the walking path and accessible garden provide a safe and inclusive environment for employees, clients, and community members experiencing low vision. This new space encourages physical activity, fostering a sense of well-being and promoting healthier lifestyles among individuals with vision loss.

Lauren Branch, President and CEO of NewView Oklahoma, expressed gratitude to TSET for their invaluable support: "We are grateful to TSET for funding this initiative for our clients and employees. The walking path just opened, and already our employees are taking advantage of the safe and accessible space to get outside and move."

This timely initiative addresses a pressing issue concerning the health disparities faced by individuals with vision loss. Research conducted by The Ohio State University, in collaboration with VisionServe Alliance, reveals that individuals living with vision loss are more prone to stroke, heart disease, and diabetes. By implementing this health and wellness program, NewView Oklahoma aims to make a substantial impact on the overall well-being of its clients and employees.



Damon Swift, COO of NewView Oklahoma, emphasized the organization's vision for the new outdoor area: "We want this to be a place of community, wellness, and learning. A place where people can come together to grow healthy foods and get movement in safely."

"TSET is proud to support NewView Oklahoma in their mission to serve blind and visually impaired individuals," said Thomas Larson, TSET director of public information and outreach. "Having a safe and accessible place for physical activity is vital to good health and coupling that space with wellness programs will have a tremendous impact on the health of NewView Oklahoma employees and clients."

NewView Oklahoma is thrilled to provide this valuable resource to the community, fostering a culture of inclusivity and empowering individuals with vision loss to lead healthier lives. The walking path and accessible garden represent a significant step forward in NewView's commitment to holistic wellness.

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About NewView Oklahoma

NewView Oklahoma is a nonprofit organization founded in 1949 with a mission of empowering individuals who are blind or have low vision, maximizing their opportunities for independence through all stages of life. Programming focuses on developing employment opportunities, low vision rehabilitation, and community outreach. NewView Oklahoma is the leading employer of blind and low vision citizens in Oklahoma and offers the only comprehensive Low Vision clinics in the state. Visit online at www.newviewoklahoma.org or follow on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or [Twitter](#).